

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 SAI-01 NIC-01 FAA-00 EB-11

COME-00 DRC-01 /121 W

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R 250644Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9499

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 1099

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, JA

SUBJ: RIGHT-WING PAPER CLAIMS PRC AMBASSADOR IN TROUBLE

1. SUMMARY: YAMATO SHIMBUN CARRIED ARTICLE PURPORTEDLY BASED ON RUMORS HERE AND IN HONG KONG CLAIMING THAT PRC AMBASSADOR CHEN CHU HAS DISAPPOINTED PEKING IN HIS PERFORMANCE AND WILL EITHER BE RECALLED OR SUFFER EVEN MORE DIRE FATE. ARTICLE CLAIMS CHEN BELONGS TO CHIANG CHING FACTION AND IS AT ODDS WITH CHOU EN-LAI. ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR CHEN COULD BE SLATED FOR TRANSFER, WE REGARD ARTICLE AS MALICIOUS NONSENSE, FABRICATED TO UNDERMINE CHEN AND POSSIBLE ADVERSELY AFFECT AVIATION AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. YAMATO SHIMBUN, RIGHT-WING, SENSATIONALIST NEWS-PAPER, IN JANUARY 23 ARTICLE ASSERTED THAT PRC
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AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN, CHEN CHU, HAD ACHIEVED NONE OF

OBJECTIVES EXPECTED AND THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY BE TRANSFERRED SOON. ARTICLE PARTLY BASED (IT SAYS) ON HONG KONG TIMES DECEMBER 18 REPORT THAT QTE CHOU SUBMITTED RECOMMENDATION TO MAO URGING PERSONNEL RESHUFFLE TO PROMOTE SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONS UNQTE AND QTE RUMOR THAT AMBASSADOR CHEN CHU IS IN DANGER IS BEING SPREAD BY HIGH CHINESE LEADERS UNQTE.

3. ARTICLE CLAIMS AMBASSADOR CHEN BELONGS TO CHIANG CHING FACTION AND IS UNTRUSTED BY CHOU. CHEN, ARTICLE ASSERTS, IN ADDITION TO NOT REALIZING AVIATION AGREEMENT, ALSO FAILED TO CARRY OUT THREE MAJOR TASKS: (1) GAIN SUPPORT FOR PRC AMONG REACTIONARY FACTIONS IN JAPAN. (2) PUSH REVOLUTION IN JAPAN. (3) UNIFY CHINESE ORGANIZATIONS IN JAPAN. ARTICLE CONTRASTS CHEN'S PERFORMANCE UNFAVORABLE WITH THAT OF HSIAO HSIANG-TIEN (A COUNSELLOR IN PRC EMBASSY) AND SAYS LATTER MAY TAKE CHEN'S JOB SINCE CHEN MAY QTE TAKE ASYLUM IN THIRD COUNTRY OR SUFFER FATE SIMILAR TO KIM DAE JUNG. UNQTE

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH IT IS OF COURSE POSSIBLE AMBASSADOR CHEN MAY BE SLATED FOR TRANSFER FOR SOME REASON, THIS ARTICLE APPEARS TO US TO BE MALICIOUS NONSENSE FABRICATED WITH SEVERAL PROBABLE OBJECTIVES IN MIND: (1) DISCREDIT AMBASSADOR CHEN IN CHINESE AND BROADER COMMUNITY IN JAPAN. (2) USE CHARGES AS VEHICLE FOR SPREADING RUMOR THAT PRC IS ATTEMPTING TO STIR REVOLUTION IN JAPAN AND SUBVERT CHINESE COMMUNITY. (3) CREATE ADDITIONAL PROBLEM IN NEGOTIATIONS ON AVIATION AGREEMENT.

5. WE ARE OF COURSE IN NO POSITION TO COMMENT ON AMBASSADOR CHEN'S PERFORMANCE VIS-A-VIS

PEKING BUT OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT HE HAS BEEN AN EFFECTIVE AND POPULAR AMBASSADOR IN DIPLOMATIC AND LARGER COMMUNITY.

6. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HONG KONG'S COMMENT ON CONFIDENTIAL

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PURPORTED HONG KONG TIMES ARTICLE AS WELL AS OTHER THOUGHTS, ESPECIALLY SINCE YAMATA CLAIMED HONG KONG, LIKE TOKYO, WAS RIFE WITH RUMORS ON SUBJECT. SHOESMITH

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